# “ALLAH’S MESSENGERS ARE HIS OWN ENEMIES”
# A REJOINDER

**BY:**
**ABDUL-BASID SA’ADAN L. BANTAJE**
**CIPACRE/ODL/2024A003**
**Centre for Islamic Propagation and**
**Comparative Religious Education,**
**Sokoto, Nigeria**

## Introduction

The Ultimate of all Belief is the **Belief in Allah**, that is, believing in His Existence as though One sees Him before him and believing in His Omnipotence. Hence, the direct opposite of such belief is "Associating Partner(s) with Him (also known as *Shirk*)." After belief in Allah, as the Supreme Lord comes the Belief in His Prophets and Messengers. It is He (Allah) that assigned roles to some selected individuals among His Creatures, as the Holy Qur'an clearly states in *Surah Al-Hajj, verse 45*:

((الله يصطفي من الملائكة رسلا و من الناس))

*"Allah chooses messengers from among the angels and from among the men"*

This work is a rejoinder to a book entitled "The Deception of Allah" by *Christian Prince.*

The work focuses on a specific topic in the book which claims that Allah's Messengers are His own Enemies, thereby making Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham) and Prophet Muhammad as the Subject of Dispute, with pointing out two similar verses of the Holy Qur'an in *Surah An-Nisa' Q.4: verses 48 and 116* respectively.

## What Allah says about His Prophets

Allah did not just place His Prophets on the second rank after belief in Him, but He declared that in several Qur'anic verses, which include, but not limited to the following:

((إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَن يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ اللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيَقُولُونَ نُؤْمِنُ بِبَعْضٍ وَنَكْفُرُ بِبَعْضٍ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَن يَتَّخِذُوا بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ سَبِيلًا. أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ حَقًّا وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا))

*"Indeed, those who disbelieve in Allah and His messengers and wish to discriminate between Allah and His messengers and say, "We believe in some and disbelieve in others," and wish to adopt a way in between; Those are the disbelievers, truly. And We have prepared for the disbelievers a humiliating punishment." (Surah An-Nisa' Q.4, verses 150 - 151)*

((قل إن كنتم تحبون الله فاتبعوني يحببكم الله و يغفر لكم ذنوبكم. والله غفور رحيم))

*"Say, [O Muhammad], 'If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins.' And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."*
*(Surah Aal Imran, Q.3, verse 31)*

Perhaps the Author must have thought this to be a proof that the Prophet was Allah's Enemy, simply because he called people to follow him, as a complement of gaining Allah's Love. This, if thought this way, will mark an absolutely weak reasoning. You can never claim loving a Master without loving his Subordinate, hence, for Love to be perfect or complete, the two (Master and Subordinate) must be loved.

**Who is an Enemy?**

The Dictionary definitions of "Enemy" are as follows:

1. one that is antagonistic to another
   *especially* : one seeking to injure, overthrow, or confound an opponent
2. something harmful or deadly
3. a military adversary
4. a hostile unit or force

With the aforementioned definitions, none can be matched with the above verses quoted to fit the so-called claim that The Prophets of Allah are His Enemies. Allah had ensured that His Prophets were the best of all His Creatures, and had made them the most submissive to His wills. None of them asked his Followers to worship him and forsake Allah. There is nowhere in any scripture that such claim was made, only out of selfishness and attempt to ruin other people's belief.

**False-claims that the Allah's Prophets are His own Enemies**

The Author emphasized on the use of the so-called Translation by one ***Usama Dakdok*** as it is evident in the screenshot below:

**ALLAH'S PROPHETS ARE HIS OWN ENEMIES**

Surely Allah will not forgive partnering with him. On the other hand, **he will forgive whom he wills**.

Qur'an 4:48 (Usama Dakdok translation):

Surely Allah will not forgive partnering (worshipping other gods) with him. But other than this, he will forgive whom he wills. And who partners with Allah, so indeed he forged a great sin.

Qur'an 4:116 (Usama Dakdok translation): Surely Allah will not forgive the partnering with himself. And he will forgive other than that to whom he wills. And whoever partners with Allah, so indeed have strayed far away astray.

We have established that Muhammad and Abraham committed the ugly sin of "partnering with himself," so based on the two verses, Muhammad and Abraham will not be forgiven. They will end up in Hell, because they are Allah's enemies.

**Who is Usama Dakdok?**

Before we delve into the rejoinder, it is incumbent to know who Usama Dakdok is. According to an online source (www.smashwords.com), *Usama Dakdok, an Egypt-born Christian, first learned about Islam while in government schools in his home country (as does every other student in a Muslim country). He furthered his university degree education at the High Institute of Social Work, Egypt, which included the study of Sharia (Islamic Law).*

*Because Arabic is his native language, he discovered upon arriving in America in 1992 that the commonly used English translations of the Qur'an were full of misrepresentations that minimized its violent teachings as revealed in the Arabic text. Having an expert understanding of Islam, he deeply desired to reach out to Muslims in America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, in 2001, he founded The Straight Way of Grace Ministry which has a two-fold purpose: to equip the Christian church to minister to Muslims, and to warn all Americans about the deceptive methods being used by Muslims to lead so many into the cult of Islam.*
*For over a decade, Usama has traveled extensively throughout America and Canada sharing the powerful message of "Revealing the Truth about Islam."*
*Usama holds a B.A in Theology and a M.A. in Missiology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.*

From the above biography, we may conclude that Usama took advantage of Arabic as his native language to utter trash on the Holy Qur'an, claiming to be a Translator. Unknown to Usama and his Cohorts that the Translation of the Holy Qur'an is not just by mere understanding of Arabic Language, and if it were to be so, then the non-Muslim Arabs of the time of the Prophet would have been the Best Translators of the Holy Qur'an, but they themselves had surrendered to the vast rhetoric nature of the Qur'anic Verses, and had for long understood that the Holy Qur'an was beyond just mere Arabic Language proficiency.

**Comparative Analysis of the so-called Usama Dakdok Translation of the attached verses**

In this section, we will take the verses one after the other and give a comprehensive and comparative Analyses of the verses, thereby comparing his Translation and the Translations of Righteous Scholars.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

((إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَن يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ ۚ وَمَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا))

*"Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills. And he who associates others with Allah has certainly fabricated a tremendous sin." (Surah An-Nisa' Q.4, verse 48)*

((إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَن يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ ۚ وَمَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا))

*"Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills. And he who associates others with Allah has certainly gone far astray." (Surah An-Nisa' Q.4, verse 116)*

**Further Exegesis of the verses**
Tafseer Tafheemul-Quran by Sayyid Abul-A'la Maududi:
**Although the People of the Book claimed to follow the Prophets and the Divine Books they had, in fact, fallen a prey to polytheism.*

**The purpose of this verse is not to tell man that he may commit any sin as long as he does not associate others with God in His divinity. The object is rather to impress upon those who had begun to regard polytheism as a trivial matter that it constitutes the most serious offence in God's sight, an offence so serious that while other sins may be pardoned this will not. Jewish religious scholars were meticulous about questions of subsidiary importance, and devoted all their time to pondering over legal subtleties which their jurists had painstakingly elaborated by far-fetched deductions. Yet they treated polytheism so lightly that they neither abstained from it themselves nor tried to prevent their people from falling a prey to polytheistic ideas and practices nor found anything objectionable in establishing cordial relations with the polytheists nor in supporting them.*

**ALLAH'S PROPHETS ARE HIS OWN ENEMIES**
Surely Allah will not forgive partnering with him. On the other hand, **he will forgive whom he wills**.
Qur'an 4:48 (Usama Dakdok translation):

Surely Allah will not forgive partnering (worshipping other gods) with him. But other than this, he will forgive whom he wills. And who partners with Allah, so indeed he forged a great sin.

Qur'an 4:116 (Usama Dakdok translation): Surely Allah will not forgive the partnering with himself. And he will forgive other than that to whom he wills. And whoever partners with Allah, so indeed have strayed far away astray.

We have established that Muhammad and Abraham committed the ugly sin of "partnering with himself," so based on the two verses, Muhammad and Abraham will not be forgiven. They will end up in Hell, because they are Allah's enemies.

The above two similar verses were the verses that the Author attempted misinterpreting them by simply referencing to Dakdok's Translation, who went ahead to relate the unrelated circumstances, that the Prophets of Allah had gone against Allah's wills by placing themselves above Allah, even after making them Prophets. This is the worst interpretation one may come across. The interpretation given did not even make any logical sense.
Dakdok, without any further exegesis or explanation, just went ahead to conclude that Prophet Ibraheem and Prophet Muhammad will never be forgiven by Allah and will go to hell because they have associated partners with Allah. He could not even support his claim with a single reference, either logical or analogical.
He would have at least referred his readers to other sources; primary or secondary.

**Were Allah's Prophets really His own Enemies?**

Looking at the above explanations, we will be able to have a wider picture of what the Author wants to achieve from his claim. This is a simple quest for cheap popularity and a way of cunning shallow-minded followers; followers that neither read nor make research on important topics, especially those that relate to Religion.

From the Qur'anic point of view, all Messengers of Allah called people to one thing, which is Monotheism. The Holy Qur'an says:

((و لقد بعثنا في كل أمة رسولا أن اعبدوا الله واجتنبوا الطاغوت))

*"And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghut (all false deities, etc.i. e. do not worship Taghut besides Allah)."*
*(Surah An-Nahl, Q.16, verse 36)*

Other verses in Surah Ash-Shuara' (Q.26) that appeared repeatedly made it clear to us that all the Prophets of Allah repeated a common statement that says:
**((فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ))**
*"So fear Allah and obey me."*

This alone is enough to clear any doubt that the Prophets of Allah had attempted calling unto People to worship them rather than Allah.

**What the Scriptures said about Allah's Prophets**

The two Prophets in question by the Author are Prophet Ibraheem and Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon them). Hence, we will point out what was said about them in the Divine Scriptures

***On Prophet Ibrahim***

Widely known as the *Grandfather of Prophets* and the major religions were even related to him as *Abrahamic Religions*.

If Usama and the Author of the Book "The Deception of Allah" were true Christians, they wouldn't have accused Prophet Ibraheem of being Allah's Enemy.

The Bible says the following about Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham or Abram):

*"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you'" (Genesis 12:1-3).*

*"In the same way, '**Abraham believed God,** and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.'" (Galatians 3:6)*

*"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the **Friend of God**." (James 2:23)*

*"Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?" (2Chronicles 20:7)*

The Holy Qur'an also says the following about Prophet Ibraheem:
((و من أحسن دينا ممن أسلم وجهه إلى الله و هو محسن واتبع ملة إبراهيم حنيفا. واتـخذ الله إبراهـيم خليلا))
*"Who is better in religion than he who surrendered his purpose to Allah while doing good (to men) and followed the tradition of Abraham, the upright? Allah (Himself) **chose Abraham for friend.**" (Surah An-Nisa' Q.4, verse 125)*

((إن إبراهيم كان أمة قانتا لله حنيفا ولم يك من المشركين))
*"Indeed, Abraham was a [comprehensive] leader, devoutly obedient to Allah, inclining toward truth, and he was not of those who associate others with Allah." (Surah An-Nahl, Q.16, verse 120)*

((إن أولى الناس بإبراهيم للذين اتبعوه وهذا النبي والذين آمنوا والله ولي المؤمنين))

*"Surely the people who have the best claim to a relationship with Abraham are those who followed him in the past, and presently this Prophet (Muhammad) and those who believe in him; Allah is the guardian of the men of faith."*

*(Surah Aal Imran, Q.3, verse 68)*

In a more detailed term, the verses below explain who Prophet Ibraheem is to Almighty Allah:

((إن إبراهيم كان أمة قانتا لله حنيفا و لم يك من المشركين. شاكرا لأنعمه اجتباه و هداه إلى صراط مستقيم.
و ءاتيناه في الدنيا حسنة و إنه في الآخرة لمن الصالحين))
*"Indeed **Abraham was a whole community by himself, obedient to Allah**, exclusively devoted to Him. And he was never one of those who associated others with Allah in His Divinity. He rendered thanks to Allah for His bounties so that Allah chose him (for His favours) and directed him to the Right Way. We bestowed good upon him in this world, and in the Hereafter he shall certainly be among the righteous." (Surah An-Nahl, Q.16, verses 120 - 122)*

***On Prophet Muhammad***

The Holy Qur'an says the following about Prophet Muhammad:

((لقد جاءكم رسول من أنفسكم عزيز عليه ما عنتم حريص عليكم بالمؤمنين رؤوف رحيم))

*"There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful." (Surah At-Tawbah, Q.9, verse 128)*

((من يطع الرسول فقد أطاع الله ومن تولى فما أرسلناك عليهم حفيظا))

*"He who obeys the Messenger has obeyed Allah; but those who turn away - We have not sent you over them as a guardian." (At-Tawbah, Q.4, verse 80)*

((يا أيها الرسول بلغ ما أنزل إليك من ربك و إن لم تفعل فما بلغت رسالته. والله يعصمك من الناس. إن الله لا يهدي القوم الكافرين))

*"O Messenger, announce that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message. And Allah will protect you from the people. Indeed, Allah does not guide the disbelieving people."*
*(Surah Al-Ma'idah, Q.5, verse 67)*

((ما كان محمد أبا أحد من رجالكم و لكن رسول الله و خاتم النبيين. و كان الله بكل شيئ عليما))

*"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing."*
*(Surah Al-Ahzab, Q.33, verse 40)*

**What are Abrahamic Religions?**

Wikipedia defines the term "Abrahamic Religions" thus:
*The **Abrahamic religions** are a grouping of three of the major religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) together due to their historical coexistence and competition; it refers to Abraham, a figure mentioned in the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Bible, and the Quran, and is used to show similarities between these religions and put them in contrast to Indian religions, Iranian religions, and the East Asian religions (though other religions and belief systems may refer to Abraham as well). Furthermore, some religions categorized as "Abrahamic" also share elements from other categories, such as Indian religions, or for example, Islam with Eastern religions.*

*In other words, The **Abrahamic religions**, are a group of religious communities of faith that claim descent from the Jewism of the ancient Israelites and the worship of the God of Abraham. The Abrahamic religions are monotheistic. The term derives from patriarch Abraham, a major biblical figure from The Hebrew Bible. The major Abrahamic religions are Christianity, Islam, Judaism and the Bahá'í Faith.*

**Dakdok and the Author's poor and selfish Translation**

It will be worthy to clear the menace of Dakdok and the Author's poor and selfish Arabic proficiency by simply giving them an extensive explanation of some of the words used.

For Dakdok not to know what the term **"Shirk"** means, yet attempted to interpret the Holy Qur'an is ridiculous.

In simple terms, ***Shirk*** may be defined as Associating Partner with Allah in worship; which is exactly what the verses were trying to point out.

Another word used from the verses we made reference with, is the word **"Ummah" which simply means "Community or Society"** and was the word used to describe Prophet Ibraheem by Allah in the Holy Qur'an, Surah An-Nahl (Q.16) verse 120. One may wonder why Allah used such word to refer to Prophet Ibraheem.
It is simply so, because as at his time, he was the only Person that was submissive to Allah, and Allah had established generations of believers from him.

Al-Maududi commented thus:
*"Abraham was a community in himself" for at that time he was the only Muslim in the whole world who was upholding the banner of Islam, while the rest of the world was upholding the banner of unbelief. As that servant of Allah performed the Mission which is ordinarily carried out by a whole community, he was not one person but an institution in himself."*

These are just some of the miraculous words that may appear very hard for Dakdok and his associates to comprehend. Most of the times, unfamiliarity with Qur'anic terms may lead some weaker minds to doubt, especially if they do not ask for clarification.

**Positive Comments about Prophet Muhammad by Non-Muslims**

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) had been widely criticized by most Non-Muslims since his inception, even though they've read about him in their scriptures. In spite of this, People with optimistic minds among the Non-Muslims find him worthy of praise and commendation which they've made clear from their quotes. Below are some of the commentaries about Prophet Muhammad by Non-Muslims:

*"Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?"* ***- Alphonse de Lamartine (1790-1869)***

*"The greatest success of Mohammad's life was effected by sheer moral force without the stroke of a sword."* ***- Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)***

*"....I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These, and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every trouble."* ***- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948)***

The above assertions by Non-Muslims alone can clarify to any doubting mind that the Love Allah has for His Prophet had really transcended in the hearts of positive-thinking People. This is irrespective of religion or race.

## Conclusion

The belief that Allah's Messengers are His own Enemies is a belief that stands nowhere close to right. Allah has made Messengers from His Creatures, which clearly explains to us that they must have gone through the most perfect form of scrutiny before being appointed. Allah's Appointment is not in anyway close to Human's Appointment. One cannot be Allah's Representative and still be His Enemy. The work has gone extra miles in gathering some obvious facts that were neglected by the Author and his 'Translation Mentor (Dakdok)' which is clearly out of selfishness and unfairness. Their translation was totally biased and self-centred which is very wrong, and has violated a strong pillar among the pillars of Research.

Muslims should also avoid being submissive to selfish Authors without making further research. When issues like this come up, one is encouraged to acquire adequate information and study it comparatively with an open mind.

A very important point to also note is the point that not only Muslims, a lot of Non-Muslims were fair enough to talk good of the Holy Prophets, specifically, our Noble Prophet, Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

Conclusively, unfamiliarity with some Qur'anic terms could be a big challenge to some minds, and instead of asking questions they go ahead to interpret based on what they assume is right. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

((فاسئلوا أهل الذكر إن كنتم لا تعلمون))

*"So ask the people of who know the message (scripture) if you do not know." (Surah An-Nahl, Q.16, verse 43)*

## Recommendations

In order to get rid of selfish Authors and some so-called Translators, the following points should be noted and be put into consideration:

- Acquiring extensive knowledge about Islam and Allah.
- Avoiding too much inclination to publications that sound biased and selfish, without having strong background in Islamic Religion.
- Giving priority to Books authored by Righteous Muslims before looking into books like the one in question.
- Avoiding Arguments with people that one has no proofs to confront them.
- Engaging in Educational Discussions with people of Knowledge.
- People should learn more and more about the Holy Qur'an and ask relevant questions.

**References**

The Holy Qur'an

Online Sources

Tafseer Sites: www.quranopedia.com www.surahquran.com quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/

Others: www.wikipedia.com www.al-islam.org www.smashwords.com

www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary https://bobsawvelle.com/

*Ismatul-Anbiya'* (عِصْمةُ الأَنبياء) by Imam Fakhruddeen Ar-Raaziyy

Tafseer Tafheemul-Quran by Sayyid Abul-A'la Maududi: